



MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TESTIMONY OF SPEAKER MICHAEL SHERIDAN **AB 601**

State Affairs and Homeland Security Committee
December 17, 2009

I would like to thank Chairman Kessler for holding a hearing on AB 601 today and apologize to him and the committee for being unable to appear in person today. I had a scheduling conflict in the district.

The bill before you today is a straightforward and simple one: it increases the legislative membership of the Building Commission by 2, one representative and one senator from each house that is appointed as are members of standing committees. The total membership on the Commission would increase from 8 to 10 members.

With the current state of the economy and the many important, complex and difficult decisions the Building Commission faces each biennium, I feel an enhanced legislative presence is warranted. At a time such as this, with budgets for everyone being tightened, adding another legislative member from each body will help to look over capitol budgets that the Administration brings forth.

Also, this membership increase would be in place for all future sessions of the legislature, regardless of who is in the majority. I am only seeking to add an additional member from each house to improve our oversight and continue our duty in the Legislative branch to help organize and influence our state finances, especially as it relates to capitol projects.

While we can add projects in the Legislature, the Governor lays out what our building projects and plan will be. Again, this simply adds a member from each house to help us with those important projects for our state.

Thank you again, Chairman Kessler, for this hearing.

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